



Eastern & Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Councils DNR Division Reports for Annual Joint Meeting

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This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as a supplement to verbal reports which will be given to the Eastern & Western UPCAC at the September 2019 Joint UPCAC Meeting in Marquette.

Welcome to the Annual Joint Meeting of the EUPCAC & WUPCAC

Stacy Haughey – UP Regional Coordinator

Public Meetings

September 5	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, DNR-Marquette Office, 6:00pm
September 11	ORV Advisory Workgroup Meeting, NMU-Marquette, 8:00am
September 11	Michigan Trails Advisory Council, NMU-Marquette, 1:00-5:00pm
September 11	Annual Joint UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, NMU-Marquette, 3:00-5:00pm
September 12	UP Natural Resources Commission Meeting, NMU-Marquette 10:30am
September 17	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD Office, Bergland, 1:00pm
September 18	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, DNR Baraga Office, 4:00pm
October 10	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
October 10	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, DNR Shingleton Office, 6:00pm
October 17	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, Sault Ste. Marie, 6:30pm
November 6	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, Escanaba, 5:30pm

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

September 5	Indian Lake State Park-Throwback Thursday Centennial Celebration
September 6	Van Riper State Park-Harvest Festival
September 12	Indian Lake State Park-Throwback Thursday Centennial Celebration
September 13	Fayette Historic State Park-A Paranormal Event
September 13	Van Riper State Park-Harvest Festival
September 13	Bewabac State Park-Harvest Festival/Centennial Event
September 14	Fort Wilkins Historic State Park-13 th Annual Geocaching Event
September 20	Straits State Park-Trek the Mighty Mac
September 20	Van Riper State Park-Harvest Festival
September 20	Wells State Park-Spooktacular Halloween & Harvest Festival
September 21	Brimley State Park-Harvest Festival
September 22	Michigan Trails Week, September 22-29, 2019, www.michigan.gov/trailsweek
September 28	Brimley State Park-Harvest Festival
September 28	Tahquamenon Falls State Park-Hike Between Da Falls/Centennial Event

Recent DNR Press Releases

For full details, go to: www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom

- DNR's Russ Mason takes on new role as executive in residence at MSU (9/4/19)
- 2019 deer hunting forecast and tips for a successful season (9/3/19)
- Natural Resources Commission in Marquette, leftover turkey licenses (9/3/19)
- DNR makes 40th cougar report confirmation (8/30/19)
- Making Michigan's outdoor recreation more accessible (8/29/19)
- European frogbit found in two locations near Lake Michigan (8/27/19)
- Seam lamprey treatment, Labor Day safety, 2020 fishing guide info (8/27/19)
- Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming meetings (8/26/19)
- Showcasing the DNR: Preserving Michigan's underwater heritage (8/23/19)
- DNR seeks input on 2020 forest road maps and ORV use (8/20/19)
- DNR to conduct herbicide treatments in Marquette County (8/20/19)
- Sturgeon hatchery tours, park rangers honored, rock reef habitat restoration (8/19/19)
- Showcasing the DNR: The UP's first mainland state park (8/15/19)

Grant Contacts

For other grant information, to go: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225---,00.html>

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant
Recreation Passport Grant
Aquatic Habitat Grant
Michigan Invasive Species Grant
Wildlife Habitat Grant
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant

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U.P. DNR Customer Service Centers and Field Offices

Customer Service Centers have staff to answer questions, Monday-Friday, excluding holidays

Baraga Customer Service Center	906-353-6651	Ishpeming Field Office	906-485-1031
Escanaba Customer Service Center	906-786-2351	Naubinway Field Office	906-477-6048
Marquette Customer Service Center	906-228-6561	Norway Field Office	906-563-9042
Newberry Customer Service Center	906-293-5131	Sault Ste Marie Field Office	906-635-6161
Crystal Falls Field Office	906-875-6622	Shingleton Field Office	906-452-6227
Gwinn Field Office	906-346-9201	Stephenson Field Office	906-753-6406

August 2019 NRC Meeting Summary

The Natural Resources Commission met in Lansing on August 8, 2019. DNR Director Dan Eichinger approved seven land transactions. Details can be found in the NRC agenda. In other NRC business:

The Michigan State Park Advisory Committee met first. Deb Jensen of Parks and Recreation gave a presentation on the management plan for Maybury State Park, a 944-acre park in Wayne County. Among the management recommendations that emerged from the planning process: promoting the track chair available at Maybury for people with disabilities; developing a business plan for the park; and determining the future of the existing headquarters building. The capital recommendations for the park include: constructing a new park headquarters; creating a non-motorized trail entrance off 7 Mile Road; and constructing a new playground in partnership with the local Kiwanis Club and township firefighters.

Nicole Toman of Parks gave a presentation on a proposal to permit hunting and trapping on a portion of Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve in Washtenaw County. The area proposed to be open for hunting comprises about 400 acres of the park's total 1,122 acres. Hunting and trapping were part of the approved management plan for the park, which is jointly managed by the DNR and the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. The land use order that would make this change will be before Director Eichinger for a decision at the September NRC meeting.

Amy Trotter, executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, reported to the committee that MUCC's annual convention included a celebration of the state parks centennial. Amy presented a tribute to Parks Chief Ron Olson commending the Parks and Recreation Division for 100 years of Michigan state parks.

Ron offered other general parks updates. He recounted recent drowning incidents at Ludington State Park, which occurred where the Sable River enters Lake Michigan. High-water conditions and strong currents have made the area particularly treacherous. The area is not part of the designated beach and warning signs let visitors know that, but the agency does not normally prohibit access to the area. DNR staff coordinated with the U.S. Coast Guard and the local sheriff to close the area where the drownings occurred until water levels dropped.

Attendance at state parks and recreation areas are up, as is lodging use. Pervasive wet weather earlier in the season caused closure of some campsites. More recent hot temperatures have strained outdated electrical systems in some campgrounds as campers use energy-hungry air conditioners.

Next came a meeting of the Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries. Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter reported on an event for the Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus in July, hosted by the Michigan Steelheaders. Construction is complete on an ultraviolet water disinfection system at Oden State Fish Hatchery in Emmet County. The system will protect

Michigan waters from unintentional pathogens. The upgrade, funded entirely by private donations and grants, is an important step in the state's Arctic grayling initiative. Regulations in the Upper Peninsula that allow for a ten-trout bag limit on 33 select streams will sunset in October. After that, the department will provide a recommendation to the commission on how best to move forward on these regulations.

Seth Herbst from Fisheries reviewed orders that were before the commission for information today and will be up for commission action in September. They are:

- Fisheries Order 204, which would modify spawning closure dates on Otsego Lake Pike Marsh in Otsego County. The order would also remove spawning closures for Cheboygan Lake, from Mullet Lake downstream to Cheboygan Dam, and for the Black River downstream from Alverno Dam.
- Fisheries Order 210, which would extend trout stream designation three-and-a-half miles on the Upper South Branch of the Thunder Bay River in Montmorency County. The order would also add "Hutton Creek" in parentheses to the description of the East Branch of the South Branch of the Waika River in Chippewa County to recognize different names for those waters.
- Fisheries Order 240, which would add two catch-and-immediate-release fishing opportunities for lake sturgeon: the St. Marys River in Chippewa County and all waters of Portage and Torch lakes in Houghton County.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason said his division will hold its annual division meeting Aug. 20-22 in Traverse City. The Mississippi Flyway Meeting will occur Aug. 19-23 in Duluth, Minn. Russ recognized the donation of 40 acres of land from Sylvia Taylor to the Muskegon State Game Area. Sylvia worked for the DNR as a wildlife biologist and administered the Michigan Endangered Species Program for the department. She became a district supervisor in 1985, managing nine counties in the northern Lower Peninsula.

Kelly Straka of the Wildlife Division reported on the department's efforts to track West Nile Virus in ruffed grouse. The disease was discovered in the state's ruffed grouse population in 2017. Michigan is working with Minnesota and Wisconsin to study exposure and infection in ruffed grouse in the Great Lakes region. Al Stewart of the Wildlife Division previewed prospects for the 2019 grouse season. Hunters should anticipate seeing more birds this year than last, Al said. Michigan's population, which moves in 10-year cycles, is on the rise and is expected to see a cyclical peak in 2020 and 2021.

During the Committee of the Whole the commission voted to enter closed session to discuss a memorandum of advice from the commission's legal counsel. After the commission emerged from closed session, Law Enforcement Chief Gary Hagler presented a life-saving award to Conservation Officer Ben Lasher and Conservation Officer Steve Converse. The two are credited with saving the life of a woman who was threatening to jump off the MacArthur Bridge at Belle Isle Park in Detroit.

Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson presented life-saving awards to four Parks staff:

- On May 13 Ranger Zachary Bierlein of the Holly Recreation Area performed CPR on an unresponsive individual who had overdosed.
- On July 18 Andrew Lunberg, working-out-of-class unit supervisor at Grand Haven State Park, responded to a missing kite surfer and searched the water by boat. When he located the individual, Andrew entered the water with a rope and throw-bag and was able to get a rescue line to the victim.
- On July 25, Lead Worker Nick Sparks and Ranger Chad Cook from Sterling State Park, received a distress call that a kayaker on Lake Erie was overwhelmed by strong waves and taking on water. Nick and Chad launched a boat and searched the water. They located the man and brought him and his kayak safely back to shore.

Marketing and Outreach Chief Kristin Phillips presented a Partners in Conservation Award to Stan Smith, assistant scoutmaster of Boy Scouts of America Troop 645 of Harrison. The award was presented for that group's work as part of the sturgeon watch program on the Black River, helping to protect the iconic species from poachers during spawning season.

Kristin then provided information on the CWD communications plan for 2019. Aimed primarily at hunters, the goals of the effort are to promote deer hunting, build awareness of deer diseases, foster understanding of management rationale and strategies, and promote habitat management work by the DNR and its partners. Hoped-for outcomes of the campaign are for hunters to continue to hunt and comply with regulations, for the department to reach its surveillance goals, to help hunters understand that slowing the rate of disease spread can reduce CWD's impact, and to achieve balanced buck-to-doe ratios in the deer population. The success of the communications campaign will be measured by deer license sales, hunter compliance with regulations, whether we reach our surveillance goals and whether hunters understand deer management.

Wildlife Chief Mason and Mike Pedigo, vice president of the Michigan Bear Hunters Association, shared the results of the Bear Patch Cooperator Program contest. The MBHA invites K-12 students to design a bear patch. This year's winner is Annie J. Laurenz, an 11th grader from Wheeler.

Amy Trotter of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs reported to the commission on MUCC's recent annual convention, held in June. Amy summarized the resolutions passed by the convention and talked about other business conducted during the meeting.

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division gave an overview of antlerless harvest goals set for Mecosta, Montcalm and Ionia counties for the 2019 deer seasons. This is an area where the commission has implemented an experimental Antler Point Restriction regulation to help gauge the interaction between APRs and chronic wasting disease. The antlerless harvest goals were developed to implement a directive from the NRC. The goal established by the department is to harvest 11 antlerless deer for every 10 antlered deer in the three counties. That would represent an increase of the current harvest of 8 antlerless deer for every 10 antlered deer in that area. Taking of antlerless deer aligns with the desire to manage deer at lower densities in CWD-affected areas.

NRC Chair Vicki Pontz asked the department to work with the Attorney General's office to update NRC policies and procedures and provide guidance on the role and future structure of NRC subcommittees. Director Eichinger agreed to report back on those efforts at the November meeting of the NRC.

A report on legislation affecting the department shared with the NRC is listed below.

August 2019 Legislative Updates

HB 4788 Allow Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at State Parks and State-operated Harbors Rep. Alexander

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by allowing the Department of Natural Resources to install charging stations for electric vehicles at State Parks and State-operated harbors. The bill also allows the department the ability to enter a lease for the installation or operation of the charging station infrastructure. Revenue from any lease shall be deposited into either the State Park Improvement Account or the Waterways Account.

- This bill has been referred to the House Standing Committee on Transportation.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at www.legislature.mi.gov.

Division Updates

Finance & Operations Division: Michelle Zeller, Eastern UP

- Sue Manshum is our new general office assistance at the Newberry Office. Sue's first day on the job was July 1. She is excited to join the DNR team and is looking forward to assisting our customers. Prior to joining us at the DNR, Sue worked at the Hiawatha Sportsmen's Club for nine years in an administrative capacity. Sue resides in Trout Lake with her husband Ron. She has two grown children, Ian and Ronnie, and two four legged children of the canine variety, Maizy and Millie. Sue loves the outdoors and enjoys fishing, snowmobiling and riding ORV's.

- Construction continues on the new building in Sault Ste. Marie with hopeful projections of completion by fall.
- Administrative staff have been reaching out to license agents updating contact information and sharing updates on the new Retail Sales System Enhancement Project as detailed below.
 - The DNR and its vendor – Sovereign Sportsman Solutions (S3) – are developing a new system that will launch in February 2020.
 - The current system dates to 1994. Existing point-of-sale equipment is well past its lifecycle and needs continual maintenance. The current system lacks modern functionality that today’s customers expect.
 - The new system will provide license agents and our mutual customers with a better sales experience.
 - Agents will have to be trained on the new system.
 - In general, advantages of the new system:
 - Agents will receive a new touch-screen monitor, computer mouse, CPU and printer. The “footprint” of the new equipment will be about the same or even smaller than the current point-of-sale equipment.
 - New equipment includes a bar-code scanner, which lets agents scan out-of-state driver’s licenses.
 - Agents will have access to more detailed sales reports.
 - Agents will have access to video-based training.
 - Certain licenses will be grouped together for a more efficient, convenient sales experience.
 - Agents will have access to equipment assistance seven days a week through the vendor’s help desk.

SEPTEMBER 2019

9/1 – Goose, Teal, Snipe, Rail seasons open (see digest for periods and bag limits)
 9/1 – May place tree stands, ladders, steps, and Type 3 deer blinds on State land
 9/7/19 – Sturgeon opens on the Boundary Waters (closes 9/30)
 9/3/19 – Drawing Results for Antlerless Deer posted on Web site
 9/9/19 – Leftover and OTC Antlerless licenses on sale at 10:00 am
 9/11 – Bear hunting begins in the U.P.
 9/15 – Small Game Opener (Rabbit, Hare, Ruffed Grouse, Fox/Gray/Black Squirrel)
 9/15 – Fall Turkey season opens (through 11/14)
 9/15 – Turtle seasons close (Snappers and Softshells)
 9/15 – Can place bait for Deer (except in closed counties, see pg. 50-51)
 9/15/19 – Bear hunting opens in Lower Peninsula units (9/16 with dogs)
 TENTATIVE 9/14/19 and 9/15/19 – Liberty Hunt for deer, see pgs. 27 and 30
 9/21/19 and 9/22/19 – Early Antlerless Firearm Deer season (see digest for areas)
 9/21 & 9/22 – Youth Waterfowl Hunt (2019)
 9/21/19 – Woodcock opener
 9/23/19 – LP Bear firearm seasons end (Note closes 9/21 for bait hunters)
 9/28/19 – Duck Hunting opens in the North Zone
 9/30 – Crow season closes; Sturgeon closes on Lk. St. Clair, St. Clair R. and Boundary Waters.
 9/30 – Trout Season closes on most inland waters
 9/30 – Snowmobile Licenses expire

OCTOBER 2019

10/1 – Early Archery Deer season opens (through 11/14)
 10/1 – Raccoon Hunting opens statewide
 10/1 – Last day to apply for the Fort Custer Freedom Hunt
 10/4/19 – Archery Bear season open in Red Oak unit (thru 10/10)
 10/5/19 – Duck Hunting opens in the Middle Zone
 10/10 – Pheasant opens in Zone 1, also Sharp Tailed Grouse (through 10/31, see maps)
 10/12/19 – Duck Hunting opens in the South Zone
 10/17/19 – Independence Hunt for deer opens (through 10/20, see p. 30)
 10/15 – Raccoon/Fox/Coyote trapping open statewide; Badger trapping open in Zone 1 & 2
 10/15 – Gray & Red Fox hunting opens

10/20 – Pheasant season open in Zone 2 & 3 (through 11/14)

10/20 – Quail season opens, close date 11/14 (see list of open counties)

10/25 – Beaver, Otter, Muskrat & Mink trapping open in U.P. (for residents, others see Fur digest)

10/26 – Late bear seasons close in the U.P.

Fisheries Division: Eastern & Western UP

Newberry Field Unit (Reported by Cory Kovacs)

- Field staff has completed stream surveys on Fixed Status and Trends streams. Streams with surveys included Naomikong Creek, Davenport Creek, Murphy Creek, Little Brevoort River, and North Branch Valley Spur.
- Field staff has conducted summer limnological profiles on many area lakes investigating temperature and dissolved oxygen regimes. This is part of the Division's effort to understand more about impacts on inland waters from increasing atmospheric temperatures over time.
- Staff participated in an Internal Forest Resources Division audit in the Sault Management Unit. This audit is evaluating the compliance to the Forest Certifications Michigan is guided by.
- Staff participated in the pre-review for the the EUP Forest Management Units.
- Newberry staff volunteered for the UP State Fair at the Pocket Park.
- Newberry staff led a community event in Moran Township. Topics covered and activities included, fisheries management, fish biology, sampling equipment overview, and youth fishing instruction.
- Lake trout fishing in Lake Superior has been very good during the summer months. Lake trout weighing 47 lbs, 32 lbs, and 21.5 lbs were caught in Munising and Grand Marais.
- As of August 27, a total of 13 muskellunge harvested thus far for 19/20 fishing season. This is around the same pace as the 18/19 fishing season.

Baraga Customer Service Center (Reported by George Madison)

- Numerous meetings with lake association groups.
- Numerous meetings with DNR internal committees and training sessions.
- Assistance to stakeholder groups who are proposing DNR Habitat Grant projects and coordinating on-the-ground guidance.
- Porcupine Mountain General Management Plan public meeting in Ontonagon.
- Reviewed DNR owned western UP dam facilities.
- Contractors have finished the engineering review for the potential removal of a headwall dam on the Ontonagon River at the Village of Ontonagon, located between the Village and the offshore Rose Island.
- Staffed one day at the UP State Fair.
- Applied for a wild rice protection grant for the Lac Vieux Desert flowage.

Escanaba Field Office (Reported by Darren Kramer)

- Technicians have been completing stream surveys and lake limnological surveys.
- Biologists have provided fisheries comments for 2021 forest treatment proposals to Forest Division
- Biologist have been meeting with lake associations and angler groups during the summer to discuss survey updates and answer questions.
- Operations at the Menominee Dam Lake Sturgeon Lift started on August 26th.
- Juvenile lake sturgeon were stocked out from the streamside units at the Whitefish River (N=230) and Cedar River (N=182) the third week of August.

Research Unit (Reported by Jim Aho)

- Hatchery technicians have been working with the Research Unit on trout stream research studies and nearshore netting/trolling surveys
- Staff has been involved in pre-spawn erymycin injections to our captive broodstock lake and brook trout populations
- Fish spawning equipment and supplies are being readied for October
- Water flow tests were completed in the hatchery raceways for discharge permit compliance and the future grayling population

Marquette Fisheries Research Station (Reported by Dr. Troy Zorn)

- We conducted our fall assessment gill netting surveys in Munising and West bays in August 2019. Splake were abundant in Munising Bay, and ruffe and northern pike most notable in West Bay.

- **Surveys**
 - Haul out and maintenance of the Lake Char was completed in July by MCM Marine in Sault Ste. Marie. No major issues were discovered, the hull was sandblasted and repainted, shaft seals and rudder posts were serviced and replaced as necessary, and additional anodes were added to the hull. The Lake Char returned to Marquette and has started summer lake trout survey work.
 - As part of the summer survey cruise schedule the Lake Char will be deploying acoustic receivers in support of the Buffalo Reef dredging evaluation.
 - Stream electrofishing was completed on Bryan Creek and Two Mile Creek in support of the ongoing evaluation of the 10 brook trout daily bag limit.
 - E. Baker assisted the Alpena FWS office for a week in July on a setline survey for lake sturgeon in the St. Mary's River.
 - A juvenile lake sturgeon spotlight survey was completed in the Black River but only 4 juvenile fish were captured.
 - Commercial lake whitefish data collection continues.
- **Office/lab/workshop/building activities**
 - State worker Paige Sutton continues to process aging structures in advance of winter aging work.
 - G. Kleaver continues to work on net repair and maintenance as time allows.
 - Techs and Boat Captains worked on various equipment and vessel maintenance issues during the lull between spring and summer lake trout surveys.
- **Meetings/Training**
 - E. Baker and T. Zorn attended Lake Superior and Lake Michigan tech committee meetings.
 - T. Zorn attended meetings in Lansing on Arctic Grayling and water use issues.
 - E. Baker and T. Zorn attended a border waters meeting with the Wisc DNR to discuss management and research issues of common interest
- **Outreach Activities**
 - The RV Lake Char crew again hosted teachers from around the state as part of the ANR North workshop. Teachers were treated to a net lift and fish biodata collection demonstration.



Thompson State Fish Hatchery (Reported by Jan VanAmberg)

- **Fish Culture**
 - Grading steelhead has begun. Lot is doing well and on-track to meet size and number requirements.
 - Tightened up netting and other gaps around openings in the raceway buildings to enhance biosecurity per MSU's recommendation.
- **Maintenance**
 - Capital outlay project struggling to stay on schedule and on-budget. Delays due to Army Corps wetlands review has delayed construction of coolwater facility at least one month and delays in communication between design team and contractor is slowing the pace of the project. As of this date the new coolwater site is cleared and rough graded. The footings for the new coolwater building have been poured, two of the ½ acre ponds have been crudely shaped. No construction started on steelhead improvements at the coldwater facility.
 - New trades helper hired. Troy Streeter starts Aug. 12th
 - Maintenance, repairs and annual cleaning completed on outside raceways and feeders
 - Purchased LED exterior perimeter lighting as recommended in the energy audit. Staff is fabricating conversion brackets and scheduling equipment rental for installation.
 - Staff cleared line of sight at entrance to new coolwater facility per MDOT requirements.

Marquette State Fish Hatchery (Reported by Jan VanAmberg)

- **Fish Culture**
 - Technicians collected wild fish from Cherry Creek above the hatchery for annual wild fish disease survey.
 - A hands-on fish culture workshop was provided for 25 teachers participating in the Academy of Natural Resources-North. Teachers alternated between ½ day in the hatchery and ½ day out on the Char observing gill net surveys.
 - Trout Unlimited group came for aquatic invasive species training provided by TU and were provided a hatchery tour
 - Technicians assisted Research Unit with brook trout surveys and other field work.

- *Maintenance*
 - New Trades Helper hired. Shaun Garvin starts Aug. 26th
 - Well field totalizer installed by Marquette and Thompson staff- Chris Klage is scheduled to fire it up next week.
 - Settling basin cell #2 pumped, new additions to process made it the best year to date.
 - Opto alarm notification system went down again. Chris Klage was able to walk staff through bringing it back on-line over the phone.
 - Building dehumidifier lost coolant. Had to be repaired and recharged.

Fish Marking and Fish Transport (Reported by Jan VanAmberg)

- *Marking*
 - Held annual Fish Marking Review Committee meeting. Reviewed and approved two walleye evaluation proposals submitted by field Units.
 - Reviewed CWT and PIT tag needs for 2020 and projects requiring tags will require we overspend the Fish Making budget by \$10,000 in FY20. Our store of inventory for all tag types will be depleted by spring of 2020.
- *Transport*
 - Setting up CDL training for new Trades Helpers at Platte, Thompson, Marquette and Fisheries Tech at Mt Clemens. Looking at holding training in the fall at Platte Hatchery.
 - Turning in Semi Preplacement currently at Platte Hatchery. New 3200 Great Lake Unit has been delivered to Platte Hatchery.
 - Turning in a Peterson planting unit currently located at Harrietta Hatchery. Unit was determined to be surplus and not to be replaced. Unit has on-going maintenance issues.
 - New Peterson Unit will be ordered this fall to replace the other aging Peterson unit at Harrietta Hatchery. Do not expect the new unit to be ready until after spring planting in 2020.
 - Leaking tank valves in the UP 3200 Great Lakes unit has been repaired at Cad-Fab and is currently at Oden. Maintenance staff there are testing to confirm repairs are done.

Forest Resources Division: Keith Magnusson, Acting Eastern UP Supervisor & Tom Seablom, Western UP Supervisor

- Forest Resources Division (FRD) has several vacancies that are being filled by acting assignments including, Assistant Chief and Field Coordinator. To date there are no definitive decisions on when these positions will be filled permanently.
- The 2021 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is underway with staff completing the gathering field information. The next open houses will be in the Gwinn Unit on September 18th in WUP and in the Sault St. Marie Unit on September 17th and 18th in the EUP. Other Unit open house and compartment review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at www.michigan.gov/forestry.
- Foresters have been working on the 2019 timber sale plan of work. Timber demand has been fair to low depending on the area of the UP. Units report that they are get many requests for contract extensions and there have been several timber offerings with no bids.
- Forest cultivation work continues in the UP. There have been several hundred acres of trenching completed in order to prepare sites for future tree planting efforts. In addition, there have been over 1,000 acres of scarification completed in order to prepare sites for natural forest regeneration. Work will likely continue until November.
- Preparations for the upcoming Snowmobiling season is in full swing. FRD Staff have been working with PRD and Snowmobile clubs to ensure safety as well as assisting with operational issues. For more information on the Snowmobile trail system Visit: www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling.
- The division is continuing to work with the USFS on the Good Neighbor Authority. The USFS expects a significant increase the amount of wood that the DNR will set up for sale in the next few years. This year approximately 3,000 acres are expected to be prepared for sale.
- As of August 26th, 515 timber sale contracts are open UP-wide. This represents 1.2 million cords of timber on 77,524 acres, valued at approximately \$59.5 million.
- Stumpage prices received have been softening over the last year. The eastern UP has particularly experienced this. The department has reacted by offering loggers free one-year extensions on several timber sales that have been impacted by this market change in order to allow loggers more time to harvest sales.
- There was a Forest Action Plan (FAP) stakeholder feedback and strategy session in Marquette on July 18th. The FAP is a comprehensive, coordinated plan to help prioritize and direct federal grant funds and leverage state and partner resources

to conserve, manage, address threats and enhance the benefits provided by Michigan's forest resources. The plan is implemented through five federal cooperative programs using federal grants: Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Legacy and Community Wildfire Protection based on priorities in the Forest Action Plan. You can learn more about these programs at: https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79237---,00.html

- Commercial Forest Program will hold hearings starting the first week of September for public input on new applications and removals from the program. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to www.michigan.gov/commercialforest.
- The DNR recently completed its annual review of state forest roads open to ORV use. Each year the Department conducts a review of roads and makes recommendations for closure to be reviewed by the public for comment by August 31st. each year. Currently approximately 5,500 miles (99.1%) of forest roads are open to ORV use. More information is available at www.michigan.gov/forestreads.
- Many road and bridge projects are being completed across the UP including, the Holland Creek Bridge, south Charcoal Grade upgrade, Ross Grade upgrade, Fibron Quarry structure replacement, Cassidy Creek Rd upgrade, Bart Creek Bridge replacement to name just a few.
- The forest health program staff completed the annual aerial forest health survey in early August. Damage observed was light this year. A few localized pockets of forest tent caterpillar defoliation were mapped on northern hardwoods especially in areas to the south. Moderate levels of spruce budworm damage were mapped on fir and spruce. Small pockets of northern red and pin oak mortality caused by oak wilt were mapped in Western Menominee county, east of Iron Mountain in Dickinson County, and in a few very limited locations south of Crystal Falls in Iron County.

Law Enforcement Division: Lt. Ryan Aho, District Law Supervisor (Western UP/District 1)

- **CO Jeremy Sergey** and a Wisconsin Conservation warden worked together on a case involving an individual who had 200 bluegill in his possession. The aggregate limit for pan fish is 75. The fish were seized, and CO Sergey filed charges for over-limit of fish with the Dickinson County District Court.
- **CO Josh Boudreaux** noticed aquatic plants hanging from the trailer of a boat he was following. CO Boudreaux conducted a traffic stop on the subjects and learned they had left a lake in Forsyth Township earlier in the day after fishing. The pair stated they were very aware of the increase of enforcement on aquatic invasive species (AIS) and said they checked their boat when they pulled out of the launch. Further inspection of the boat revealed water in the live well and numerous aquatic plants attached to the trailer. A civil infraction citation was issued for failing to remove aquatic vegetation from a vessel/trailer before leaving a body of water.
- **COs Josh Boudreaux and John Kamps** received a complaint of an individual burning tires and other garbage in Marquette County. The COs had been made aware of this individual in the past and multiple officers from various departments have responded to this individual's residence and issued citations for illegal burns. At the residence COs immediately noted the overwhelming odor of burning plastic as the suspect assured the COs it was only wood he was burning. Examination of the pile revealed remnants of furniture, oil containers, and other assorted debris with no wood to be found. The suspect was placed under arrest for an illegal burn and unlawful disposal of solid waste. He was then transported to the Marquette County jail.
- **CO Jenni Hanson** was the first to arrive on scene of an ORV accident in Gogebic County. Two riders were operating on a closed trail when one of the riders took a turn too fast. He flew off his four-wheeler slamming his back into a tree. CO Hanson provided medical aid until the paramedics arrived with a rescue sled. The responders extricated the patient out of the woods and brought him to the Aspirus Ironwood Hospital.
- **COs Doug Hermanson, Dave Miller, Cody Smith and Sgt Marc Pomroy** worked a combined effort patrol of Isle Royale waters to target subjects taking over-limits of Lake trout. Officers worked in conjunction with the US Coast Guard and National Park Service rangers to conduct surveillance of a group staying on the island to fish multiple days. Contact was made with the group when they left the island before their scheduled departure date, due to rough seas approaching. They were found to be in possession of an over-limit of Lake trout. CO Miller cited the boat owner for possessing the over-limit of lake trout.
- **CO Cody Smith** assisted with a search and recovery of a student who had went cliff jumping at Canyon Falls in Baraga County. The individual had jumped off the falls around 8:00 pm and was unable to get out of the river due to high current from recent rains. The search party was called off after searching into the night. The following day CO Smith showed up on scene with an off-road vehicle (ORV) while the Michigan State Police (MSP) Dive Team gathered. While waiting for the dive team an MSP Helicopter "Trooper 3" was able to locate the body of the missing person in the river downstream. CO Smith and a Baraga County Sheriff's Deputy led the dive team by ORV to the nearest location so they could recover the body across the river.
- **CO Doug Hermanson, Sgt. Marc Pomroy and Wildlife Technician Brad Johnson** were able to successfully capture and remove a problem bear from Fort Wilkins State Park. The bear had become very tolerant of people and would be seen in the daylight hours removing garbage from the trash receptacles.
- **COs John Kamps and Cody Smith** observed two individuals fishing from a dock on Lake Michigamme. When the anglers saw the COs approaching the dock, both subjects quickly reeled in their fishing lines and walked into a boat house. The COs pulled up to the dock and found both subjects trying to hide in the boat house. A check revealed that neither subject possessed a valid fishing license. Both subjects were issued a ticket for fishing without a license.

- **COs Dave Miller and Cody Smith** pulled into a boat launch as two vessels were returning from an Isle Royale fishing trip. Upon checking their fish, one of the anglers admitted there were more fish in the bed of their truck. After counting the fillets, the boat of three anglers were seven Lake trout over their daily limit including a mutilated fish. A citation was issued for the over-limit of Lake trout.
- **CO John Kamps** assisted multiple police and fire agencies with the evacuation of a nine-story apartment complex on fire in the city of Marquette. As CO Kamps arrived on scene, large amounts of smoke were seen coming from the roof and the 9th floor of the building. CO Kamps made his way to the 9th floor and started assisting residents in evacuating the building. All residents were evacuated safely, and no injuries were reported.

Law Enforcement Division: Acting Lt. Jerry Fitzgibbon, District Law Supervisor (Eastern UP/District 2)

- District 2 has received 5 new Conservation Officers. Alger (Andrea Dani), Delta (Breanna Reed), Luce (Cole VanOosten), Mackinac (Mike Olesen), and Chippewa (Todd Sumner) Counties each received one new officer.
- **Sgt Jerry Fitzgibbon**, Area Supervisor for the District will be filling in as the District Lt. for Lt. Hagy for an undetermined amount time due to a family members personal illness. **CO Robert Freeborn**, Schoolcraft County, will be filling in for Jerry Fitzgibbon during this time period as the Area Supervisor.
- Those newly assigned officers will be going through weeklong Waterfowl training and Trapper training coming up in the next two months to round out their 1st year of training.
- District Officers are busy teaching Hunter safety classes. Several have been done in the past few weeks with several others scheduled in September.
- District CO's were allotted 16 hours of overtime each, to be utilized for this upcoming bear and small game hunting season openers.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a call from local dispatch late at night involving a side by side with 4 occupants that were stuck/lost in a remote area. CO Freeborn was given an approximate location by dispatch and immediately knew the old grade they were more than likely stuck on. Once CO Freeborn went as far as he could in his truck he walked on foot until he found them. The subjects were cold and shaken up but unharmed. CO Freeborn walked them back to his truck where he transported them to an MSP car that was waiting by the highway. The subjects were then transported back to their cabin.
- **CO Andrea Dani** responded with MSP and EMS to the call of a suicidal male. After speaking with Officers, the man was transported by EMS without incident to Marquette General Hospital for treatment.
- Upper Peninsula COs tended the recruitment booth at the Pocket park during the UP State fair. COs answered numerous questions for patrons. COs also assisted with the hunter education booth and the pellet gun range.
- **CO Chris Lynch** recently had an illegal bear case adjudicated in court. The hunter pled guilty to shooting the illegal bear, was fined \$325, order to pay \$3500 in restitution, and their hunting privileges were revoked for the remainder of 2019 through 2020.
- **COs Colton Gelinas, Calvin Smith, Michael Oleson, Sgt. Robert Hobkirk and Cpl. Kevin Postma** assisted with the Swim the Mackinac event where entrants swim the length of the Mackinac Bridge. The event had 400 swimmers who started the swim across the Mackinac Straits in Mackinaw City and finished in St. Ignace.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** were finishing up a shift when a call came out of a wildfire near Newberry. The Officers responded to the scene and worked with local and state agencies to address the fire. The Officers discovered that a Tahquamenon Riverboat tour train with approximately 200 tourists aboard was attempting to return to their base which would bring them directly through where the fire was burning. CO VanOosten was able to unload a 4-wheeler and drive down the tracks, through where the fire was burning to meet the train and provide support to those on board until the fire could be brought under control. CO Vinson was able to stage on the Tahquamenon River and act as an emergency evacuation route if needed. After several hours, the fire was suppressed to the point that the train and passengers could be returned safely to its destination.
- **COs Todd Sumner and Colton Gelinas** responded to a call from Central Dispatch of a vehicle in the ditch along US-2. Upon arrival, it was found that the subject had put his truck and 23-foot boat in the ditch. Further investigation revealed that the subject was under the influence of alcohol and drugs. COs arrested and lodged the subject in the Mackinac County Jail.
- **CO Michael Evink** conducted a boat patrol on Big Bay de Noc. While heading back to the launch, CO Evink heard CO Chris Lynch asking for assistance in Nahma. CO Evink took his patrol boat to the access site in Nahma, docked it, and walked the few blocks into Nahma to assist CO Lynch, who was arresting an individual for driving on a suspended license. CO Evink then returned to his boat and continued the patrol to where he began.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** assisted MSP in responding to an elderly subject who fell out of his boat at the launch and was cold and disoriented. Arriving at the same time as EMS, he was helped into the ambulance where he was checked out by EMS staff.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steven Butzin** were on patrol when they observed a vehicle in oncoming traffic coming towards them operating left of center with the driver not wearing a seatbelt. A traffic stop was conducted and contact with the two occupants in the vehicle was made. The odor of intoxicants came from the cab of the vehicle and the driver and passenger were displaying behavior consistent with someone under the influence of narcotics. CO Lynch conducted SFSTs on the driver while CO Butzin and MSP troopers conducted a consent search of the vehicle. Open intoxicants and several narcotics were in the vehicle. Upon running both occupants of the vehicle through dispatch, it was learned the driver had a suspended driver's license. The driver failed the sobriety tests and was placed under arrest for felony OWI, driving on a suspended license/subsequent offense, and open intoxicants. The female passenger gave several false names and was under the influence of narcotics. MSP took the female passenger into custody for further investigation. The

vehicle was towed from the scene, a search warrant was obtained for a blood draw on the driver, and the driver was lodged in the Delta County Jail.

- **CO Michael Evink** was conducting a night patrol near Indian Lake State Park. CO Evink observed a truck pulling a small boat trailer that did not have any trailer lights. CO Evink conducted a traffic stop. The driver of the truck had a felony warrant out of the local police department. CO Evink arrested and lodged the driver at the Schoolcraft County jail.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was dispatched to an ORV accident near his location when ending his shift. When CO Zitnik located the group of ORV riders, he noticed that the injured rider had sustained a compound fracture to his lower extremity and was bleeding heavily. The rider's two friends had fashioned a homemade splint and tied two tourniquets. The CO ultimately needed to re-apply a tourniquet since the makeshift tourniquets were not adequately reducing the blood flow. The CO led EMS to the location, where they rendered first aid, then transported the injured rider to the hospital.
- While on patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** overheard local dispatch send EMS to a remote location where a subject was pinned under a fallen tree and his condition was unknown. CO Freeborn was familiar with the location and was only a few miles away at the time and responded. Arriving first on scene, CO Freeborn advised the responding units of the exact location. CO Freeborn, along with a neighboring camper, were able to cut and clear the portion of the tree that was pinning the male subject. Once the subject was accessible, CO Freeborn performed first aid on the subject who had a large laceration on the top of his head and a possible broken shoulder. Once the bleeding was under control, CO Freeborn continued to stabilize the patient until EMS arrived. Due to the remote location and severity of his injuries, the patient was airlifted to the hospital.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Statewide Interpretive Manager

- The DNR is approaching 500,000 social media followers across all platforms.
- We recently broke 30,000 followers on our main Instagram account and our Michigan State Parks account has 26,000 followers.
- The DNR was recently contacted by NASA DEVELOP with a request to provide footage from our hemlock woolly adelgid video for use in a NASA video modeling eastern hemlock distribution.
- The DNR is at the tail end of a successful marketing campaign encouraging women residents, ages 22-38, to fish and buy a fishing license (online). The digital campaign, which is serving targeted Google ads to the top 50 Michigan zip codes for fishing license sales. The marketing campaign also includes targeted social media ads. The social media component will run through fall. With fishing license sales declining, it's important for the DNR to target new audiences – like female millennial anglers – and show them that the sport of fishing isn't intimidating and can be done alone or with family or friends.
- In March, The DNR, launched a marketing campaign to increase license sales to nonresident customers through research-driven, targeted marketing. Specific groups of hunters and anglers are sent digital advertisements that link to content with specific species, activities and locations developed from information gained via surveys and include a call-to-action to purchase a license. The campaign is currently focused on summer fishing and will continue to change with seasons.
- DNR education staff are wrapping up a huge summer at our ten visitor centers in State Parks and Fish Hatcheries across the state. Since Memorial Day Weekend, when we transitioned from school programs to our summer season, we have presented nature-based programs for almost 50,000 participants in our visitor centers, state park campgrounds and fish hatcheries. The Interpretive Program and Explorer Program conducted more than 700 introductory fishing programs and 150 introductory archery programs through the same period.
- The DNR hosted thousands of participants at the U.P. Pocket Park during the State Fair in Escanaba August 12-18. Great volunteers join DNR staffers to introduce participants to fishing, archery, pellet gun shooting, wildfire safety and lots of other great conservation messages.
- Education staff have completed three "Hunting Whitetails Naturally" workshops. These Outdoor Skills Academy courses were designed to help hunters make a successful transition to hunting without bait. We focused on tips and techniques around reading sign, understanding air photos, diving deeper into whitetail deer biology and hunting between bedding and feeding areas. 20 more classes like the Deer Hunting courses this year have helped participants to elevate their game including Bear Hunting, backpacking, Steelheading, Turkey Hunting, Fly-Fishing and a host of other nature-based outdoor workshops.
- The 24th annual Saginaw Bay Waterfowl Festival was held again at the Saginaw Bay Visitor Center at Bay City State Recreation Area on August 3 & 4. The festival was sponsored again by Cabela's, Northwoods Wholesale Outlet. Michigan's State Championship Duck and Goose Calling Tournament as well as the Michigan Duck Hunters Association 2018 Michigan Waterfowl Stamp Competition as well as arts, crafts, waterfowl carving contest, a wildlife photo contest, Quack-Athalon and other duck-related games round out the weekend. Participation this year was around 10,000.
- The annual DNR Academy of Natural Resources welcomed 60 participating teachers again this year to natural resource education and science-based natural resource management through a week-long experience at the RAM Center in Roscommon in mid-July. Teachers spend time afield with Wildlife Biologists, Conservation Officers, Foresters and Fisheries

Biologists learning field skills and figuring out together how to incorporate those techniques into their teaching plans. An second week-long program we called “ANR North” was completed at the Ford Center just South of Baraga in mid-August. The program is a UP version of ANR and brings an additional cultural and mining focus to the curriculum. The program in the UP also included great partnerships with Michigan Technological University, Keweenaw Bay Tribes and the National Park Service.

- DNR education staff are again busy preparing programming at the Boardman Weir, Platte River Weir and Little Manistee Weir. School groups and public tours help citizens understand the natural history of Great Lakes salmon, the impact invasive species are having on salmon and other species around the basin and the role of the DNR in managing aquatic resources. Teachers and group leaders can sign up for late-September and early October Weir tours at DNR/education.
- The Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) will hold its annual conference at the Kettunen Center on September 27 and 28 near Tustin. The DNR will play a vital role again this year serving up breakout sessions that help environmental educators throughout the state understand and teach about some of Michigan’s most pressing conservation issues.
- The Dansville, Ortonville and Sharonville shooting ranges were upgraded with new concrete sidewalks downrange to enhance the facilities safety and accessibility.
- Archery education will be hosting an Explore Workshop class at the UP DNR Pocket Park on Saturday, September 28th to promote bowhunting and exploration of nature. The workshop will teach educators how to successfully implement the Explore Bowhunting program in their schools, local parks, nature centers, and conservation organizations.
- The UP National Archery in the Schools Program Coordinator, Erick Kestila, is working to complete NASP Basic Archery Instructor certification classes with educators to implement NASP in elementary, middle, and high schools. During the UP State Fair, many of the students stopped by the Pocket Park and spoke with the Archery Education Coordinator regarding NASP in their schools. We will be contacting the schools in the UP to determine where we can successfully implement NASP and support those schools that are currently in the program.
- We trained ten Detroit Public School Community District (DPSCD) teachers to become certified NASP Basic Archery Instructors this past March in preparation on NASP expansion this school year. These instructors will be implementing NASP in ten Detroit High Schools including the communities where NASP is currently in the Middle Schools. This move will allow students to continue NASP once they matriculate from Middle School to High School. This also makes the High School more marketable for enrolling students to attend these NASP schools. DPSCD has also added archery to the district curriculum and we are focusing on adding more schools this school year.

Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, Western UP District Supervisor

State Park/Recreation Area/Scenic Site/Forest Recreation Units

- **Baraga State Park:** Has been very busy, even with half of the campground closed for upgrade. Camp nights are still within 1% of last year. Recreation Passport sales have also been strong.
- **Bewabic State Park:** We had one wedding and a major event (Aspirus Outdoor Woman) event. Removed two sections of retaining wall at our swimming beach. Retaining wall was failing and a safety hazard.
- **Bond Falls Scenic Site:** busy and has had a high volume of self-registration envelopes. We are selling more non-resident annuals than usual and have had to request more inventory from division office for a second time.
- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park:** Busy camping season, preliminary numbers look like July is up about 10%; August looks similar.
- **Lake Gogebic State Park:** Attendance has been up both for July and August with record attendances both for the July 4th holiday and for the Finn Fest event in August. The Lake Gogebic traveling maintenance crew is midway through replacing roofing and shingles at the Fort Wilkins Headquarters Building.
- **McLain State Park:** Camping numbers have been good these last two months full or near full even during the week. There was a stabbing at the day use beach that was covered by the media. The stabbing incident was handled by the Michigan State Police out of the Calumet Post and is still under investigation.
- **Menominee State Recreation Area:** Has been busy and selling good numbers of Recreation Passports.
- **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park:** Has been busy with several projects such as building renovations, M-107 shoreline armoring and getting the Cotten property cabin open for public use. The annual Porcupine Mountain Music Festival was again a success with high attendance. There were also several search and rescue operations within the park during July and August.
- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Camping at the park has been busy during July and August. Most weekends since the end of June, the park has been full. Another good season for the mini cabin, with very few open days. Day use has been very busy with the hot weather during the last 2 months. The 4th of July parade and picnic were extremely busy. Park staff along with

the MRS crew did many projects, painting the enclosed shelter, replacing fire pits, starting the field office trim project, painting of the lodge.

- **Van Riper State Park:** The Friends of Van Riper and Craig Lake State Parks had the Grand Opening for the Pump Track on Saturday July 20th at 11am. The second edition of "re-imagine the mini cabin" is nearing final completion by staff with an electrician coming in to complete the wiring upgrades. The cabin is beautiful and fits perfectly into the rustic feel of the park with a little glamping feel. The Centennial Story Telling Event was held around the pavilion on Saturday, July 20th. There were a few stories shared by visitors about their experiences camping within Michigan State Parks. The presentation was given by staff for the Northern Center for Lifelong Learning including a history and general information followed by a hike along the river trail. Attendance included about 30 people. A second round of community outreach programs were put on in the past couple of months including more Archery 101 programs and Kayaking 101. All had good attendance and participants of all ages as well. Various meetings were held during July and August including a trails meeting with trails staff, NCT members and Van Riper staff and a trail ground truthing in conjunction with the UP Land Conservancy, where there is an MOU currently being crafted as part of the trail will be on Craig Lake State Park property. This partnership is a good addition to the unit and the DNR. This will include the construction of a small parking area east of the Keewaydin Lake yurt, giving a hiking opportunity to yurt users.
- **Wells State Park:** Events for the month of July and Aug went well with a good turnout. Christmas in July and our friends group corn roast. Large straight-line windstorm came through at the end of July and the park suffered a lot of downed trees.
- **Baraga Field Office:** Assisted with some tree removal due to storms at Big Eric's Bridge state forest campground, Wells State Park and Baraga State Park. Replaced 7' x 60' culvert at Van Riper that led to the semi-modern campground and boat launch. Armored 750' of shoreline entering the Porkies on County Road 107.
- **Escanaba Field Office:** State forest campgrounds remain busy throughout middle and end of summer. Staff continue to maintain and make improvements. Escanaba Field Office Staff as well as Baraga Field Office Staff responded to a straight-line wind event at JW Wells State Park to remove many downed trees. Unit staff have completed the armoring of the overlook at JW wells state park day use area. Over 200 tons of large rip rap were placed between the overlook and lake Michigan to protect the overlook from undermining in high water level conditions. Unit staff removed approximately 140 feet of stone retaining wall at Bewabic State Park day use area, tapered the bank and installed beach sand in the area that was tapered.

Boating Reports

- **Bewabic State Park:** Eddy Lake is still closed due to high water.
- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Misery Bay BAS has been extremely busy this summer, BAS crew must travel there twice a week and sometimes that's not enough (30 to 40 vehicles at the site on a weekday). Our other BAS sites have had normal usage. The high water at Clear Lake has covered the boat launch for all the summer, not sure if water is going to go down or not, we will need to access the problem this fall.
- **Van Riper State Park:** Baraga and Escanaba construction crews worked quickly and efficiently to get the culvert replaced and road repaired and opened to the public. This project included upgrades to a road used as a temporary reroute and to the culvert and road itself.
- **Wells State Park:** Work on the erosion shoreline project in the day use area began in the end of August with help from Escanaba field office.
- **Baraga Field Office:** Cleared trees at Net River Dam for pit toilet venting.
- **Copper Harbor State Harbor:** Copper Harbor Marina revenue is up 130% from last year (through July). Still waiting for new fuel distribution system to be installed. Eagle Harbor upgrade project on phase 100, recently had 76 people turn out for the public input session. The community is really passionate about that site.

Other Issues & Challenges

- **All State Park Units** are really struggling in the recruitment and retention of short-term worker staff, which has hindered operations all summer. Staff on hand are performing to the best of their ability, but critical worker shortages has shorted shift coverage and normal maintenance and operational upkeep. Unit staff have been focusing on the core tasks of park operations and some extra duties and maintenance have been sidelined.

Planning and Trail Reports

Multi-Use Trails

- DNR construction crews were able to rebuild 4 miles of trail through Caspian and Iron River. The work included drainage improvements and adding a gravel cap.
- Design work has been completed on several water crossings required to extend the Stateline trail in Gogebic County. This sponsor project is the first step to extending the multi-use Stateline trail to Wakefield. Funding has been applied for through several sources to provide the construction dollars to continue.
- Work began on the box culvert under the trestle bridge on the Baraga-Arnheim grade. This 60' long box culvert will provide stability to the trestle abutments. Several other failing culverts will also be included in this project.
- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Nicholls multi-trail is open. We were able to fix 4 hazard spots north and south of twin lakes, one to the north we were able to make repairs enough to get the trail open for ORV, but more substantial repairs will be needed for the snowmobile season. This year because of a staff shortage we were not able to do more trail work, as we were needed in the Park. Because of no dust control this summer, complaints have risen this year and we have noticed more dust getting to the park from the trail.
- **Van Riper State Park:** PRD trails staff, Van Riper staff and members of the Friends of Harlow met and have discussed trail projects and funding needed and prioritizing where the funding should be used. Additional meetings are being scheduled for updates and other upcoming projects and issues.
- **Baraga Field Office:** Assisted Escanaba Field Office with graveling several miles of trail on the Stateline Trail in Iron River.
- **Escanaba Field Office:** Escanaba Field Office, with the help of Forest Resources Division, Baraga Field Office and outside trucking contractors resurfaced over 4 miles between Caspian and Iron River on the stateline ORV trail. 3,300 Tons of road gravel were spread to improve the trail surface and eliminate dusty conditions.

ORV Trails

- ORV sponsors have been able to take advantage of the weather and accomplish over a hundred miles of route grading.
- Beaver activity was at very high levels this year. Most beaver problem areas are now dealt with and the work of clearing blocked culverts continues.
- Many trail repairs and improvements have been completed by sponsors throughout the WUP over the last few months.
- **Baraga State Park:** There has been good use of the campground for ORV camping and of the ORV parking area for trail access.
- **Lake Gogebic State Park:** Staff have been working with Don Helsel of MI-TRALE with the planning of an ORV route into Lake Gogebic State Park. Rangers have begun flagging the section of proposed trail that is within the park boundaries.
- **Twin Lakes State Park:** The 2019 ORV season was a busy one on the Nicholls trail and we could tell by the number of side by sides that were staying at the park.

Snowmobile Trails

- Spring melt and rains affected several roads and bridges last spring. Work continues for several sponsors to develop re-routes and solutions for trail connectivity this winter.
- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Meeting with snowmobile club on a maintenance project in the Mass/Greenland area. The Adventure Mine project was finished and will greatly enhance the trail riding public experience thru that area.

Pathways

- **Escanaba Field Office:** The Delta County Non-Motorized Trails have made continuous improvements to the drainage and general conditions to the Days River pathway.

Trespass and Acquisition Report

- **Menominee State Recreation Area:** Working to acquire a piece of property at Piers Gorge from Verso Paper.

Planning Report

- **Bewabic State Park:** Working with the district planner to update wastewater disposal and road projects at Bewabic.
- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park:** Historic fort masonry/brick replacement completed. Fort Wilkins/Fayette fire suppression project ongoing. Fort Wilkins/Copper Harbor Lighthouse restoration reconstruction meeting 8/27. Fort Wilkins water and sewer nearing 90% phase 100 (construction anticipated 2020).
- **Lake Gogebic State Park:** The Lake Gogebic traveling crew will be working to help install a new furnace and duct work at the headquarters, they are scheduled to replace roofs at Fort Wilkins and Twin lakes. There is more remodeling to be done

at the shop cold storage garage in order to make it into the new workshop. There are plans to assist Tahquamenon Falls with two roofing projects as well as the Porkies to build two tiny houses. Paving of Bergland dock BAS is scheduled to start mid-September.

- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Upcoming project to put a new roof on toilet building during the fall season. Finishing lodge entrance project by the end of fall.

Parks & Recreation Division: Eric Cowing, Eastern UP District Supervisor

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Detour Village BAS breakwall project is at 90% design, with 100% design documents expected soon.
- Lime Island Harbor upgrade project: Phase 400 review in second week in September.
- Brimley toilet/shower building replacement: Consultant was hired and kickoff meeting was held in August.
- The Raber property cabins were removed. Major maintenance crew has plans to return this fall to finish. Still need to remove some concrete foundations and landscape cabin area.
- Brimley State Park has had been short a seasonal ranger since June 29th. First attempt at hiring a replacement failed when all screened candidates declined an interview.
- All but one state worker at Brimley returned to college this week. The park is very short staffed during the weekdays, but have part-time help on the weekends.
- Brimley: At or above 98% occupancy on the weekends starting the last weekend in June to current.
- DeTour Harbor: 1766 slip nights to date for the 2019 boating season.
- Lime Island: 81 cabin nights to date for the summer.
- Lime Island management plan is moving towards completion. The public input meeting was held July 25 at the Raber Township Hall with approx. 30 in attendance. The 6th general management plan meeting is scheduled for September 6th.
- A new submersible well pump had to be installed on the island in June.
- Concerns about the high water levels at the Lime Island docks. Most are practically floating on the old wood cribs. If water levels remain high during ice-up. There may not be much intact next spring.
- The Lime Island State Dock (roadway) is starting to erode due to high water levels.
- The new Brimley State Park playscape has been getting a lot of use this summer, as well as donated ADA viewing telescopes at the lakeshore/day use area.

Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: Finished reconstruction of doctor's house front porch. General reactionary maintenance to window sashes, doors, locks, etc. Working with professionals & PRD/MHC team to address fire suppression/prevention.
- Campground: No major problems with toilet/shower building and/or sewage pumps. Camp hosts in place for July & August.
- Harbor: Floatation dock here to do needed repairs to Main Dock (high water related) & fishing pier (refurbishment).
- Continue having issues recruiting quality state workers. Had two openings all summer.
- Christmas in June held June 15th: 91 camps Fri & Sat nights – statistically identical to the previous 2-year average of 90.5.
- Heritage Day held August 10th: 120 camps Fri & Sat nights – 3% higher than the previous 2-year average of 117.
- First week of June Through August 28th camp nights: 2019: 3,652; Previous 2-year average: 3,504; UP 4%.
- Day Use: First week of June Through August 25th: 2019: 49,880; Previous 2-year average: 49,998; EVEN.
- Harbor: First week of June Through August 28th boat nights: 2019: 430; Previous 2-year average: 453; Down 5%.

Indian Lake/Palms Book

- Raft drive renovation at Palm Book is complete.
- Re-roofed vault toilet buildings at West Shore.
- Louie's Well Drilling was awarded the bid to install a new water well at South Gemini Lake.
- Some difficulties finding summer staff this season.
- Events: June-Three Free Weekend, Christmas in July, Discover Michigan Mammals, Friends Group Fishing Tournament, August Annual S'mores and Meteors, August Annual Stewardship Bluebird House Build.
- Camping was up in June and July down in August.
- Attendance at Palms Book continues to increase.
- The increase in attendance at Palms Book has continued to make staffing that location difficult. Often times needing an employee to load the raft with a manageable amount of people and keep it moving due to long lines and wait times.

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- Contractors have completed the electrical upgrades and site work in sections 1 and 3. All sites now have new pedestals and new main panels were installed. Customer feedback has been very positive for this project.
- The park hosted a 100-year celebration along with the Tahquamenon Valley Car Show cruise night in the day-use in July. The event was well attended.
- Camping and day-use attendance has been busy all summer. The Lake Superior overlook parking area has needed overflow parking on the weekends. State Forest Campgrounds were slow to start this spring but have seen an increase in activity the end of July and through August. Lake Superior campground has been the busiest being at full capacity for 28 days straight.

Straits State Park/Mackinac Island/Father Marquette

- Nearing the end of the planning phase with the consultant hired to give a site conceptual plan for Father Marquette.
- Prebid meeting held on Mackinac Island for toilet shower building replacement. No bids were received so we will have to try and rebid at a later date.
- A consultant was hired to plan and design toilet shower buildings in the north campground at Straits State Park.
- Summer staff hiring went a little better this year however we still had unfilled positions at both Mackinac Island Harbor and Straits State Park. Quality of workers was better this year so that helped out.
- National Wild Turkey Federation held a BB gun fun shoot along with a turkey hunting seminar.
- MI DNR, National Forest Service and Tribal Forest service staff held a Birthday for Smokey Bear at Straits State Park. The event was well advertised and very well attended.
- Tribal POWWOW was held at the Father Marquette park.
- Campground use and passport sales remain high with slight increases over last year.
- While most parks slow down after Labor Day, Straits remains very busy with events every weekend in September. This is a good thing, however, we lose most of the staff to keep things running and sometimes can only make sure the essential tasks are completed.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Upper Falls Water/Sewer Study: Louie's Well Drilling has completed the new well at the Upper Falls.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island redevelopment project: Bids for construction came in over budget. Waiting on more funding to continue.
- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement project: Sanders & Czapski held the kick-off meeting for the project in early May. They are currently working on several design concepts. Hoping to have an on site meeting scheduled soon.
- Lower Falls Road Seep project: Design is complete. Seeking funding for construction in FY 2020.
- Milakokia Lake BAS redevelopment project: Wade Trim from Gaylord is in the initial phases of design work.
- County Line BAS Paving/redevelopment Project: Sidock Group was awarded the bid for design. The kickoff meeting will be held on September 13th, 2019.
- Whitefish Point Harbor Redevelopment study: Ongoing.
- Ryan Brown (Seasonal Ranger) has accepted the Full time Lead Ranger position at Van Riper State Park. With his departure, we currently have a seasonal ranger & permanent intermittent ranger position open.
- We are very short staffed currently due to the above mentioned vacancies as well as the loss of many state workers for the season.
- The Newberry Field Office Supervisor position remains vacant, pending Civil Service clarification.
- The Tahquamenon Wilderness Canoe Race will be held on September 14th, 2019.
- Harvest Festival weekend is October 11-13, 2019.
- All campgrounds were full from July 1st through August 24th. It is expected we will be close to setting another camping record for this season. Day use traffic has been heavy, but slightly lower than 2018.

Trail Reports

Rail-Trail Projects

- Haywire Grade: Grant sponsors are getting some spot filling and grading done in preparation for the 50th anniversary in 2020. Haywire historical interpretive pull offs project was bid out and construction should begin this month.
- Ashmun Bay Trailhead to 12th Street in the Sault has dried up and been smoothed up approximately 1 mile.

Snowmobile Trail Updates

- Grants are out to purchase 7 groomers.

- Grant sponsors are beginning to work on brushing and signing for the season.
- Sunken Lake Bridges Project is complete. 2- 90' bridges have been installed. One on the Fox River and one on the West Branch of the Fox River. This opens a 13-mile trail to Seney Trail 440. It will relieve some of the heavy traffic on Trail 43 coming into Seney from the west.

ORV Trail Updates

- ORV Route from Moran to Detour: Les Cheneaux Snowmobile Club is still working on the signing. Miss dig is tough to work with for the number of signs needed for the trail. We are looking at carsonite signs as an alternative.
- Most ORV grant sponsors have completed maintenance of trails for the season.
- ORV trail "where can we ride" and trip planning questions are increasing.
- Lots of activity all across the area this summer and recent holiday.
- ORV Seasonal Restriction DRAFT Land Use Order of the Director is being presented to various stakeholders.

Equestrian Trail Projects

- Little Brevort Lake Equestrian State Forest Campground Proposal is slowly moving its way through the approval process.
- UP Trail Horse Association has completed the Headquarters Lake Equestrian Trail.

Event/Use Permits

- Drummond Island off-road adventure was in August.
- Six days of Michigan motorcycle event was the last week of July. 3 days of riding in the east UP and 3 in the northern LP.
- NEWBERRY High School track meet in August.
- Backwoods Trail Tour in August.

General

- Constructed 7 pairs of bulletin boards to be placed at 7 ORV and pathway trail heads.
- Many trail types seem to be seeing more use this summer.

Wildlife Division: Bill Scullon, Field Operations Manager

- **CWD Surveillance and Deer Check Preparation:** Wildlife staff continue to prepare for the upcoming deer season by planning for increased efforts at check stations and efforts to surveil for CWD and Bovine TB. Permanent Wildlife staff completed CWD lymph node collection training this month so nearly all UP staff can collect lymph nodes from sample animals in an effort to streamline the testing process for participating UP hunters who want their deer checked. Staff are in the midst of hiring additional seasonal workers to bolster efforts within the UP CWD core area. Additional helpers will be hired for the Norway, Crystal Falls, Escanaba, and Marquette Offices. Currently a NCWA has been working to assist in collection of all Crop damage harvested deer heads for testing. So far 55 deer have been tested in the UP CWD Core Surveillance Area and another 119 tested in the UP CWD expanded Surveillance Area.
- **Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Management Area Pump Upgrades:** Building upon the start of site upgrades last fall the construction crew and DU have nearly completed the scheduled work at Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Management Area near Chassell on the Houghton/Baraga County line. The new electric pump installation is complete, and staff are pumping water into the dike units. The addition of a new water distribution box and berm installed on the north end of the farmed field unit provides Wildlife staff with the ability to seasonally flood the 80 acres of planted field in shallow water conditions conducive to feeding migrating waterfowl. In total the new electric pump and water distribution system will allow us to more effectively manage 700 acres of wetland habitat for waterfowl and aquatic mammals, as well as hundreds of non-game species. Construction crews will be finishing up some road improvements through the fall so watch out for those if you are coming to visit the SRS.
- **Regional Habitat Work:** Wildlife field staff all around the UP are winding down the summer planting season and concluding habitat preparation work as they transition to the fall activity season. As an example the Escanaba Wildlife staff



are wrapping up new planting projects in Delta and Menominee Counties totaling over 247 acres of habitat for various wildlife species such as deer, grouse, and turkeys/ the Escanaba Crew also completed mowing another 97 acres of existing habitat project which include GEMS sites, hunter walking trails, and forest openings. Moving into the falls season some tree planting projects are scheduled around the region in addition to other preparations for the fall hunting seasons. Final accomplishments numbers from all UP-Wildlife units will be available after the new fiscal years starts in October.

- **40th Cougar Report in Michigan:** Biologists from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' cougar team confirmed this week the 40th cougar report in Michigan since 2008. The latest cougar confirmation came from a trail camera set up on public land in Delta County. Cody Norton, large-carnivore specialist with the DNR's bear and wolf program, visited the area and, with the help of members of the cougar team, substantiated the report. The trail camera photo was taken at 8:55 p.m. on Aug. 17. A black-and-white image from the camera shows a cougar heading away from the camera into a stand of cedar trees. The confirmation comes from an area about 170 miles from where a cougar trail camera image was snapped July 7 in Gogebic County and verified by the DNR earlier in this summer. Since 2008, the DNR has now confirmed 40 cougar reports, with all but one of those occurring in the Upper Peninsula. In some cases, these reports may include multiple sightings of the same cougar, not necessarily 40 individual animals. The DNR has no credible evidence of a breeding free ranging population occurring in the State.
- **Waterfowl Banding:** Wildlife staff completed duck banding operations in mid-August and surpassed their Mississippi Flyway mallard and wood duck banding obligations. Staff banded 115 mallards and 150 wood ducks and a few red head ducks as well. Earlier in the summer staff successfully banded over 300 Canada geese across the region. Information from these banded birds helps wildlife managers formulate season structures and assess mortality rates. If a hunter or concerned citizen finds a banded bird it can be electronically reported to the US Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Laboratory at reportband.gov.
- **Fall Waterfowl Seasons:** The Early Teal season is open September 1 and runs through the 16th statewide with a daily limit of six teal and possession limit of 18 teal. The early Canada goose season opens September 1 and runs to September 30 with a five-bird daily bag limit and three times possession limit. Regular Canada geese season states October 1 and runs to December 16 in the UP with a daily three Canada goose limit. Regular Duck season opens September 28th and runs through November 24th with a split for November 30th and December 1st for the thanksgiving holiday. The daily duck limit will be 6 ducks. For specifics please see the MI waterfowl hunting guide. Youth waterfowl hunting season will be September 21 and 22nd. For properly licensed youths under the age of 16.